

Please do NOT deregulate the corporate media industry any further. Mergers only serve to constrain the variety of news content available.

Without an informed citizenry, what is democracy?

Without a multitude of independent sources, how informative is the news? How else are citizens supposed to get their information?

Since the Telecommunications Act of 1998, the climate of deregulation has only intensified. Before any further policy changes are made to accommodate the handful of corporate giants that already have a disproportionate voice in our representative system, please reconsider the FCC's general disposition on this issue.

Perhaps deregulation will be an economic boost for the media industry. But, it is a dangerous thing to let capitalism overtake democracy. That is exactly what the laissez-faire attitude towards News Corp., AOL-TW, Viacom, Disney, etc. engenders.

There will be no democracy in the 21st century without a democratization of mass media. We should be taking steps in that direction, not the other way. Digital TV will make a more independent, multi-perspective selection of content technically feasible, and if this opportunity is neglected, it's a tragedy in itself.

Please make a choice for the people! The corporations are getting enough favors these days.

-Ray Riga